

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 3776

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA, SP

SUBJECT: CLC CONDEMNS SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. IN WAKE OF ICFTU PROTESTS AGAINST EXECUTIONS OF TERRORISTS IN SPAIN, CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) ISSUED STATEMENT SEEKING TO COUNTERACT ACCUSATIONS IN MEDIA AND FROM AFFILIATES THAT CANADAIN TRADE UNIONS WERE INDIFFERENT TO DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN. CLC WELCOMED GOC'S DECISION TO KEEP AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN GEORGE BLOUIN IN OTTAWA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS NEW "INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT THE SPANISH REGIME MUST BE TREATED AS THE INTERNATIONAL LEPER IT INSISTS ON BEING."

2. ABSOLVING ITSELF FROM CRITICISM THAT ITS CONDEMNATION LAGGED BEHIND THAT OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CENTERS, THE CLC STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT AS FAR BACK AS JULY WHEN THE TRIALS GOT UNDERWAY "CLC IMPRESSED ON SPANISH AUTHORITIES NEED FOR ANY CIVILIZED SOCIETY TO RESPECT HABEAS CORPUS AND TO DROP RECOURSE TO DEATH PENALTY". AFTER NOTING THAT THERE IS "NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD FOR TYRANNIES AND DICTATORSHIPS BE THEY OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT", CLC REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR UGT (SPANISH UNION IN EXILE) "IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM".

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EM COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO VARIOUS TYPES OF PROTEST
ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, CLC
AND ITS AFFILIATES ARE NOT INCLINED AT PRESENT TO GO
BEYOND ISSUANCE OF CONDEMNATORY STATEMENTS AND POSSIBLY
PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS AT UNION CONVENTIONS. AMBASSADOR
BLOUIN WAS IN OTTAWA ON CONSULATATION AT TIME OF SPANISH EXECUTIONS
AND GOC RIDING WITH THIS HAPPY COINCIDENCE WITH BASIC LOW-KEY
APPROACH. CLC ENDORSEMENT THUS MAY BE OF A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
POLICY WHICH IS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL.
JOHNSON

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